





# IMAGE UNITED

## CHAPTER ONE

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I SEE MYSELF SURROUNDED.  
I ONLY RECOGNIZE SOME.  
ARE THESE THE WORLD'S  
MOST POWERFUL HEROES?

NO. THEY ARE  
ALL THAT IS LEFT.

I CAN FEEL THEIR  
DESPERATION--THEIR  
SENSE OF HOPELESSNESS.  
THEY TRY TO HIDE IT BUT  
I KNOW THE TRUTH.

THIS IS THE END.

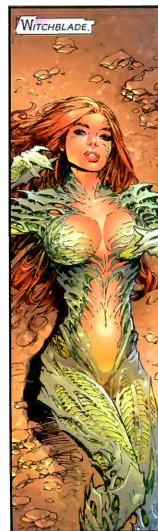
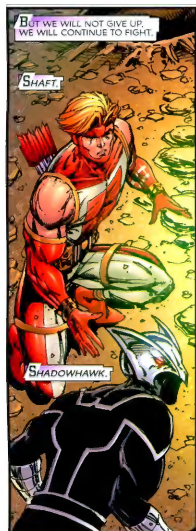




I SEE MYSELF. I'M FIGHTING  
ALONGSIDE THEM.

I KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING.  
BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW. THIS  
ENEMY WE FACE--HE IS MORE  
POWERFUL THAN EVER BEFORE.

WE CANNOT HOPE  
TO DEFEAT HIM.





CHICAGO

I'M ON A ROOFTOP.  
HOW DID I GET HERE?  
I REMEMBER FIGHTING--  
I REMEMBER FEELING SO  
FULL OF POWER THAT I  
MIGHT EXPLODE. THEN  
NOTHING...

THERE IS SO MUCH  
ABOUT THIS SUIT I  
STILL DO NOT KNOW.

I HEAR EXPLOSIONS IN  
THE STREET BELOW.  
SOMETHING IS WRONG.

**GHOOM!  
GHOOM!  
GHOOM!**

FREE!  
FINALLY  
FREE!

MAYHEM!  
DESTRUCTION!  
THERE'S NO LIMIT  
TO THE PAIN AND  
MISERY I CAN  
CAUSE!

THIS NEW  
BOSS IS THE  
GREATEST!

I DO NOT KNOW  
THIS ONE.

IS THAT A PLANE OVER-  
HEAD? IT LOOKS STRANGE.

BAD NEWS, TEAM. HE SEES  
US COMING. EVERYONE HOLD  
ON TO SOMETHING.

--TAKING  
EVASIVE  
MANEUVERS.

**NO!**

SOME OF THEM--FROM MY VISION. WHY ARE THEY HERE? WHAT IS HAPPENING?

WAHOO!!

AT LEAST BADROCK'S ENJOYING HIMSELF! I'M OKAY WITH DYING YOUNG, BUT I WANT TO LEAVE A PRETTY CORPSE. DIE HARD--A LITTLE HELP HERE!

AFFIRMATIVE!

SUCH A SHAME. THIS IS ALREADY COSTING TAXPAYERS MILLIONS.

IT'S ALL BUSINESS WITH YOU. THAT'S WHY THINGS NEVER WORK OUT BETWEEN US.

UH, YOU CAN CARRY US BOTH, RIGHT?

GOOM!

DRAGON--AGAIN. I REMEMBER HIM FROM BEFORE MY VISION.

THIS DAY JUST KEEPS GETTING BETTER AND BETTER.

YOUNGBLOOD'S HERE. ONCE AGAIN THE GOVERNMENT SENDS IN THEIR COLORFUL WRECKING CREW TO INTERFERE WITH POLICE BUSINESS.

PEACHY.

YOU GLORY-HOUNDS HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON?



TROUBLE.

AND THE  
PRESIDENT  
HAS A HOT  
SPOT FOR  
CHICAGO.

SO SOMEONE  
IS PAYING HIM TO  
WRECK THE STREETS  
OF CHICAGO? THAT  
DOESN'T ADD UP.

GOTTA ADMIT,  
AS MUCH AS I USUALLY  
LOATHE A VISIT FROM YOUR  
CREW--I COULD PROBABLY  
USE THE MUSCLE ON THIS  
ONE. KNOW ANYTHING  
ABOUT THIS GUY?

OVERT-KILL--  
A WALKING TANK--  
THE MAN IS LOADED DOWN  
WITH MORE HI-TECH  
WEAPONRY THAN YOU  
CAN IMAGINE.

HE'S A  
HIRED GOON.  
MOSTLY  
MOB RELATED  
JOBS.

MY  
THOUGHTS  
EXACTLY.  
SOMETHING  
STRANGE  
IS GOING  
ON.







LONG ISLAND SOUND.  
CYBERFORCE HQ.

HOW  
WIDE-  
SPREAD  
IS IT?

REPORTS COMING  
IN FROM CHICAGO, NEW  
YORK, LOS ANGELES,  
BALTIMORE. IT SEEMS LIKE  
SOME KIND OF COORDINATED  
ATTACK TO ME--BUT THERE'S  
NO EVIDENCE THAT THESE  
PEOPLE ARE WORKING  
TOGETHER OR EVEN HAVE  
A GOAL--MUCH LESS A  
COMMON ONE.

SHOULD WE  
INTERVENE?

HOW?  
JUST PICK  
A CITY? WHAT  
IF SOMETHING  
HAPPENS  
NEARBY  
WHILE WE'RE  
GONE?

THIS IS NO  
COINCIDENCE. ATTACKS  
ALL OVER THE COUNTRY, ALL  
AT THE SAME TIME. THIS HAS  
NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE.  
SOMETHING LARGER IS AT  
WORK HERE.

WE SHOULD  
WAIT THIS OUT UNTIL  
WE HAVE MORE  
INFORMATION, STRIKING  
WITHOUT CLEAR  
PURPOSE IS ALWAYS  
UNWISE.



BIG MESS  
DOWNTOWN--  
THREE HEAVIES  
GOING AT IT!

COULD  
REALLY USE  
YOUR HELP ON  
THIS ONE!



YOU  
HEARD  
HER.

LOAD  
UP!





CHICAGO

THE WAY THEY DIVE HEAD-FIRST INTO THE FIGHT IS REMARKABLY ADMIRABLE. IT'S LIKE MY VISION—THEY DON'T BACK DOWN, THEY ARE UNAFRAID.

THIS IS GOING TO ROCK.

GROW UP, ALREADY.

HELLO, BUZZ KILL!

FIRST AND LAST WARNING TO BACK OFF, HEROES! YOU END MY FUN—I'LL END YOUR LIVES!

THAT'S NOT GOING TO WORK. I'D ADVISE YOU TO SURRENDER.

THE VISION—WAS THIS WHAT IT WAS ABOUT? I CAN'T JUST WATCH THIS.

I HAVE TO HELP.

DON'T LET UP! KEEP HIM PINNED DOWN!

MAYBE THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF WHAT I SAW. I HAVE TO DO MY PART TO PREVENT WHAT'S COMING. I SAW A WORLD IN RUINS.

I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN.



THEY'RE  
GOING TO  
NEED ALL  
THE HELP  
THEY  
CAN GET.

AGH!

YOU  
THINK I  
WAS  
JOKING?

**BASHOON!!**

LIBERTY ISLAND.

YOUNGBLOOD HQ.

PRIMARY UNIT DOWN.  
BODYBANK ACTIVATED.

SECONDARY UNIT  
ACTIVATION  
SEQUENCE  
INITIATED

UPLOADING...

UPLOAD  
COMP. FTE

DAMN  
IT.  
WE DON'T  
HAVE TIME  
FOR THIS

NEW BODY, EH? MUST  
BE GETTING ROUGH  
OUT THERE.

SHAFT HAS  
A TRAINEE  
WAITING.  
YOU  
GUYS ABOUT  
THROUGH OUT  
THERE?

NOT  
EXACTLY

GREAT  
LOOKS  
LIKE I'M  
COVERING  
FOR HIM  
AGAIN

CHICAGO.

# WRAMM!!

DON'T LET UP--  
KEEP HIM  
PINNED DOWN!

WE NEED TO  
KEEP HIM CONTAINED.  
HE'S ALREADY  
CAUSED TOO MUCH  
DAMAGE.

THIS IS  
INSANE

EVER SINCE I  
FOUND THIS SUIT--  
OR RATHER, IT  
FOUND ME-- MY  
LIFE HAS SPIRALED  
INTO COMPLETE  
INSANITY.

NOW I'M FIGHTING  
SOME GIANT CYBORG  
AND THESE PEOPLE  
HAVE NO IDEA WHAT  
I'VE SEEN-- WHAT LIES  
AHEAD OF THEM.

THEY'RE  
UNAWARE OF THE  
DANGER THAT  
AWAITS THEM.

VOGUE!

I SWEAR,  
IF YOU HURT  
HER--!

I WONDER IF  
THEY CAN TELL  
HOW TERRIFIED  
I AM UNDER  
THIS COSTUME.

HA! YOU  
THINK YOU  
CAN HURT  
ME?!

## Cheom!

IT'S  
GOING  
TO TAKE  
MORE  
THAN  
THAT!

IS THAT A  
CHALLENGE?!

YOU  
CALLING  
ME  
OUT?!



LIBERTY ISLAND.

YOUNGBLOOD HQ.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS. IF YOU'RE NERVOUS, WE CAN JUST GO, TELL THEM YOU'RE FLATTERED TO RECEIVE THE OFFER BUT YOU JUST CAN'T ACCEPT IT RIGHT NOW.

THEY'LL UNDERSTAND.

I'M NOT NERVOUS. YOU'RE NERVOUS AND YOU'RE MAKING *ME* NERVOUS YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE COME

HOW COULD I NOT? MY SON IS AUDITIONING FOR YOUNGBLOOD. I COULDN'T MISS THIS.

I WISH YOU HAD--IT'S EMBARRASSING.

EMBARRASSING TO HAVE A FATHER WHO'S PROUD OF YOU?

NO. NOT AT ALL. THAT PART'S OKAY.

I JUST CAN'T FIGURE OUT IF YOU'RE NERVOUS BECAUSE YOU THINK I WON'T MAKE IT--OR IF YOU'RE NERVOUS BECAUSE YOU THINK I *WILL*.

IF I'M HONEST--IT'S A LITTLE OF BOTH.

OKAY, KID. SHAFT'S OUT IN THE FIELD, HE'S NOT GOING TO MAKE IT. I'LL BE HANDLING YOUR FINAL EVALUATION.

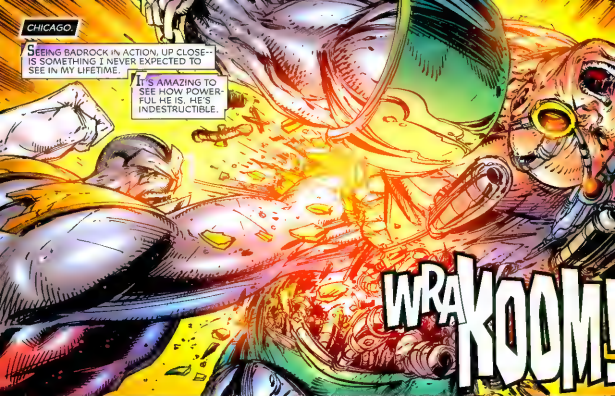
GREAT, JUST GIVE ME A SECOND.

I'M READY

CHICAGO.

SEEING BADROCK IN ACTION, UP CLOSE-- IS SOMETHING I NEVER EXPECTED TO SEE IN MY LIFETIME.

IT'S AMAZING TO SEE HOW POWERFUL HE IS. HE'S INDESTRUCTIBLE.

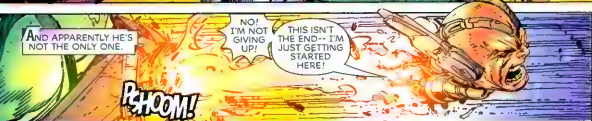


AND APPARENTLY HE'S NOT THE ONLY ONE.

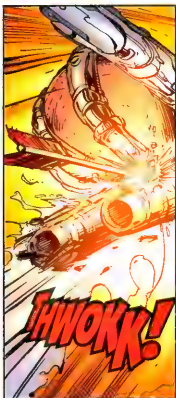
NO! I'M NOT GIVING UP!

THIS ISN'T THE END-- I'M JUST GETTING STARTED HERE!

POOOM!



NO! YOU DON'T GET TO RUN NOT THIS TIME



ARE YOU OKAY?

I'M GOLDEN, THANKS. I'VE HANDLED WORSE.

WROKK!

SQUEEE  
ERROR





JUST LIKE THAT--THE BATTLE WAS OVER. *THIS* BATTLE--BUT I FEAR THE WORST IS YET TO COME. I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT--I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF I CAN TRUST THIS VISION--IS IT JUST A SIDE-EFFECT OF BEING IN THIS SUIT?

I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING... I CAN FEEL WHAT I SAW IS REAL--I'VE GOT TO TRUST MY INSTINCTS

**VOGUE!**

VOGUE, ARE YOU--?!

I CAN'T--

I CAN'T--

I NEED TO GATHER MORE HEROES-- I NEED THEIR HELP TO DO THIS

How do I tell them? What do I say?

CRAP

I HAD NO CLUE THE GIRL TOOK SUCH A HIT.

GO--GET HER TO A HOSPITAL. WE'LL WAIT HERE FOR A TRANSPORT TO PICK UP OUR PRISONER.

REPORT IN AS SOON AS YOU KNOW SOMETHING

WILL DO

IF YOU GUYS HAVE THIS COVERED--I SHOULD BE MOVING ALONG MY KIDS ARE PROBABLY HOME FROM SCHOOL BY NOW AND--



WE NEED YOU--WE NEED EVERYONE! I'VE SEEN THINGS--TERRIBLE THINGS! WE'RE ALL IN GRAVE DANGER!

THE WORLD NEEDS US! LISTEN TO ME! THERE IS TOO MUCH AT STAKE!

OKAY, STRANGER-- YOU'VE EARNED YOURSELF A STAY IN THE CLINK!

WRAM!

DID THAT MAKE A DAMN BIT OF SENSE TO ANY OF YOU?

GUY'S CLEARLY A NUTBAG. COOL COSTUME, THOUGH. THAT GLOWING STUFF IS NEAT.

DRAGON, WAIT. GUY WITH HIS POWER, MAYBE YOU SHOULD LET US TAKE HIM. WE'RE BETTER EQUIPPED FOR THAT.

SUITS ME.

AS LONG AS THAT MANIAC IS OFF THE STREET.

GOOD "TEAM-UP" LET'S NOT DO THIS AGAIN ANY TIME SOON.

WROKK!



LIBERTY ISLAND.

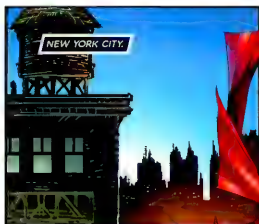
YOUNGBLOOD HQ.

THANK YOU, SIR. REALLY-- COMING FROM YOU, THAT MEANS A LOT.

I MEAN IT, KID. YOU DID GREAT IN THERE. THERE ARE A FEW THINGS THE REVIEW BOARD IS GOING TO HAVE TO CONSIDER BUT AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, YOU'RE IN.

YOU ACED IT. YOU'LL MAKE A GREAT ADDITION TO YOUNGBLOOD.





NEW YORK CITY.

R SE, J M  
OWNING

WHO  
IS  
THAT?

A PLAN HAS  
BEEN SET IN  
MOTION. THE  
PIECES ARE BEING  
MOVED INTO  
POSITION.

YOU ARE  
TO BE ONE  
OF THOSE  
PIECES

I'M NOT  
IN THE HABIT  
OF TAKING  
ORDERS FROM  
PEOPLE WHO  
HIDE IN THE  
SHADOWS

SHOW  
YOUR-  
SELF.

WHO  
ARE YOU  
AND WHAT  
DO YOU  
WANT?



WHO  
AM I?

THE MEERK  
UNFAITHFUL  
HUSK YOU NOW  
ADORN YOURSELF  
WITH KNOWS  
ME AS AL  
SIMMONS.

WHAT  
DO I  
WANT?

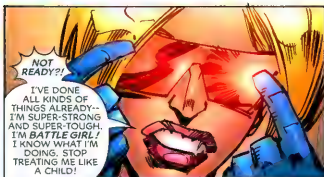
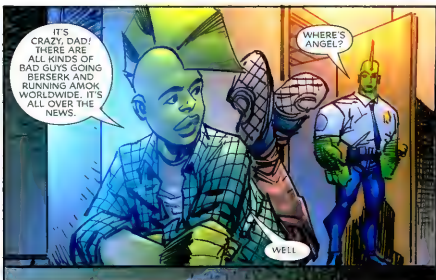
I WANT  
IT ALL, JIM  
DOWNING--AND  
YOU'RE GOING  
TO HELP ME  
GET IT.

BOW  
BEFORE THE

**OMEGA  
SPAWN.**



∞:∞:∞:∞





LIBERTY ISLAND.

YOUNGBLOOD HQ.

DROP SOUND  
BARRIER ON CELL  
TWO ONE EIGHT.  
CLEARANCE LEVEL  
ALPHA, JEFF TERRELL.  
CODENAME SHAFT.

I NEED TO ASK  
YOU SOME QUESTIONS  
AND I DON'T HAVE TIME TO  
HAVE TO MAKE YOU  
ANSWER THEM

YOU ATTACKED  
OFFICER DRAGON TO  
KEEP HIM FROM LEAVING.  
YOU CLAIM THERE'S  
SOMETHING BAD ABOUT  
TO HAPPEN--THAT YOU  
NEEDED ALL OF US

NOW THE  
WHOLE WORLD  
SEEMS TO HAVE  
GONE TO HELL AND  
I'M STARTING TO  
THINK YOU'RE  
NOT CRAZY.

WHAT  
DO YOU  
KNOW?

I KNOW BITS--PIECES.  
I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT I'VE  
SEEN THE FUTURE. THINGS ARE  
ONLY GOING TO GET WORSE  
FROM HERE.

MUCH  
WORSE.

WE NEED  
TO GATHER  
EVERYONE--  
PREPARE FOR  
THE COMING  
BATTLE

IF WE  
DON'T UNITE  
AGAINST THIS  
COMING  
THREAT...

WE  
ARE ALL  
GOING TO  
DIE!



# IMAGE UNITED ORIGINS

## PART ONE

Does anybody remember 1992?  
Can I reminisce?

1992 was the year seven artists formed the company responsible for the comic you're holding in your hands right now. It started with *Youngblood* #1, the highest selling independent comic of all time when it was released that Spring, and exploded into a full-on revolution, launching *Spawn*, *Savage Dragon*, *WildC.A.T.s*, *CyberForce*, *ShadowHawk* and *Wetworks* in quick succession. There had never been a comics company like Image before – a company formed by and for comic book creators – and no matter what happened next, 1992 was Image's year.

Let's go back a bit further, though, if you don't mind...

I met Jim Valentino in the summer of 1991. Jim was working on *Guardians of the Galaxy* at the time, and I was just trying to break into comics. I was supposed to interview Jim for a fledgling comics magazine called *Wizard* and over the course of our conversation that day, at a small regional comics show somewhere in the middle of Southern California, we hit it off. We kept in touch after that, getting together for lunch every so often and talking about what was going on in comics at the time.

One afternoon, probably in October or November of that year, Jim called me up and said he wanted to tell me about something, but that I had to promise I wouldn't repeat a word of what I was about to hear. Jim sounded frenetic and I couldn't tell if he was upset or excited, but after I swore to silence, he dropped a bombshell on me: he, Erik Larsen, Jim Lee, Rob Liefeld, Todd McFarlane, Whilce

Portacio and Marc Silvestri were starting an all-new comics company.

I was stunned, to say the least.

Todd McFarlane and Erik Larsen had both just finished runs of *Amazing Spider-Man* and its record-breaking spin-off title, *Spider-Man*. Jim Lee and Whilce Portacio were drawing *X-Men* and *Uncanny X-Men*. Rob Liefeld had just launched *X-Force* out of *New Mutants*, and Marc Silvestri, after a long run on *Uncanny X-Men*, was the artist on *Wolverine*. Along with Jim on the aforementioned *Guardians of the Galaxy*, these were the most popular artists in comics. And they were striking out on their own, to create a new universe of characters they would have complete control over.

Over the days and weeks that followed, Jim told me more about this new venture, which was now being referred to as "Image Comics." I learned about all the characters bit by bit, hearing about virtually every character that appeared in the first year's worth of Image Comics in completely out-of-context sound bites. *Spawn* had an energy counter. *Youngblood* were celebrity superheroes. *ShadowHawk* broke his foes' spines. *Dragon* was a one-man police force. It went on and on, and with each new detail, my mind reeled as it considered the possibilities of a superhero universe created and controlled by comics' top artists...

Fast forward to Free Comic Book Day 2008.

16 years after the formation of Image, Atomic Comics owner Mike Malve invited all the Image Founders to sign at his shop in Phoenix, Arizona. Apart from a panel at San Diego Comic-Con in 2007, this was the first time all the founders had been together in years, and it was one of the biggest events Malve had ever hosted at one of his stores.



# IMAGE UNITED ORIGINS

The night before the signing, Todd and Wanda McFarlane had the whole crew over to their house for dinner, and it was the first time all seven Image founders had really sat down together and talked in well over a decade. By all accounts, a splendid time was had by all, a genuine sense of camaraderie coursing through the room. Everyone left energized about the signing and optimistic about the future. The wheels had started turning...

The very next morning, in the lead-up to the signing, then-Publisher Erik Larsen called with an idea he wanted to run past me: "What if we did an Image crossover featuring all the Image characters – Spawn, Savage Dragon, Youngblood, ShadowHawk, CyberForce, Witchblade, you name it – and instead of getting one person to draw it, all the various characters would be drawn by their creators?"

I'm not going to lie: It sounded crazy.

What's more, it sounded like a crazy amount of work. Just from a logistical standpoint alone, it seemed absolutely insane. One artist would have to lay everything out, then the pages would be scattered to the four winds as everybody made their contributions to the finished art. Just thinking about all the packages going back and forth, it sounded like something out of a FedEx advertisement.

Erik's no stranger to harebrained schemes like this, though. Inspired by the now-legendary team-up between comics legends Jack Kirby and Wally Wood on *Fantastic Four* #39, wherein *Daredevil* artist Wally Wood handled the *Daredevil* figures and King Kirby drew the FF, Erik had joined forces with Don Simpson in 1993 for *Savage Dragon vs. Megaton Man*, creating from scratch a story featured art and dialogue by both creators. Even more madcap and extreme than Kirby and Wood's original experiment, it proved (at least in

Erik's mind) that it was possible to do a crossover project of the scale he had envisioned out there in the blazing Arizona heat.

It didn't take long for me to be convinced. As Erik rattled off the pros and cons of such an ambitious project, I was immediately transported back to those early conversations with Jim Valentino and how excited I was by the prospect of a whole universe of creator-owned characters. It was an idea that, despite a number of guest appearances in various comics and a handful of Image crossovers by several fine writers and artists, had never quite reached its full potential. To actually bind the Image Universe together as originally intended, with the direct involvement of (nearly) all the Founders seemed like an admirable goal. And logistical concerns notwithstanding, it sounded like a lot of fun, to boot.

At the FCBD signing, Erik talked to the other guys. Surprisingly (or maybe not so surprisingly, considering the initial risk they'd all taken when they first formed Image), everyone was on board. By the end of the day, the tentative plans for Image United were hatched, with an eye toward getting the project out by the end of 2009. Everyone knew it was going to be difficult, but coming out of Free Comic Book Day, there was a sense of boundless enthusiasm: This project was going to be something truly special.

Now, we just needed to get someone to write this magnum opus in the making...

*Emi*

Eric Stephenson  
Publisher






DANIEL,  
LISTEN. I KNOW  
WE'VE HAD OUR  
DIFFERENCES IN THE  
PAST... MAYBE THAT'S  
UNDERSTATING  
IT A BIT...



THE THINGS  
THAT I'VE DONE  
TO YOU, WHETHER  
I MEANT TO OR NOT,  
ARE UNFORGIVABLE...  
BUT WE JUST DON'T  
HAVE TIME TO  
DEAL WITH THAT  
RIGHT NOW.



THERE IS TOO  
MUCH AT STAKE. I KNOW  
THE PEOPLE WHO KILLED ME  
ARE AFTER SHILLINGER'S  
NOTES--HIS EXPERIMENTS WERE  
IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO KILL  
OVER. NOW THEY'RE AFTER  
YOU... AND AMANDA.

BUT WE CAN  
FIX THAT, IF WE WORK  
TOGETHER--BUT IF WE'RE  
GOING TO DO THAT, YOU  
NEED TO KNOW THIS.  
I KNOW YOU THINK YOU AND  
AMANDA WERE HAPPY, BUT  
SHE CAME TO ME--

SHUT UP!

YOU NEED  
TO HEAR THIS,  
AFTER ALL THIS  
TIME--YOU NEED  
TO KNOW--

NO,  
SHUT UP,  
KURT!

ARE  
YOU SEEING  
THIS?

# HAUNT

Writer / Co-Creator - Robert Kirkman  
Layouts - Greg Capullo  
Pencils - Ryan Ottley  
Inks / Co-Creator - Todd McFarlane  
Colors - FCO Plascencia  
Lettering - Richard Starkings/Comcraft



WOW.

THAT'S  
NEW.

ARE YOU DOING  
THAT ON PURPOSE?  
THIS ISN'T ANYTHING LIKE  
HOW IT WAS BEFORE—IT  
DOESN'T HURT AT ALL—IT'S  
JUST SORT OF COMING  
OUT OF MY POSES, IT'S  
LIKE SWEATING.

LOOK  
HOW EASILY IT'S  
FORMING.

I DON'T  
KNOW—I'M  
TOUCHING YOU—  
I'M NOT EVEN  
CONCENTRATING  
OR TRYING TO  
DO THIS.

ALL THE OTHER  
TIMES WE'VE FORMED INTO  
HUMAN IT'S BEEN ME LEAVING  
INTO YOU—IT'S BEEN IN A HURRY  
WHEN IT'S DONE THAT WAY  
MY ECOTOPLASMIC FORM POURS  
OUT OF YOUR MOUTH  
AND NOSE...

AND  
THAT'S VERY  
UNPLEASANT,  
LET ME TELL  
YOU.

WELL, WHAT'S  
HAPPENING TO ME IS  
NO PICNIC EITHER, LET  
ME TELL YOU.

BEING A... GHOST,  
WHICH IS REALLY WEIRD TO  
SAY. LET ALONE *BE* FEELS  
HOLLOW, COLD... BUT I'M  
WEIGHTLESS, RELAXED...  
IT'S... PEACEFUL.

WHEN I ENTER  
INTO THE PHYSICAL  
WORLD THROUGH YOU—IT'S  
LIKE BEING PUSHED THROUGH  
A BLENDER, EVERYTHING  
SETS... HELL, IT'S HARD  
TO EXPLAIN.

THIS IS  
WEIRD, SLOW,  
EASIER.



FOR ME, I'M COVERED  
IN THIS WEIRD ECTO-ADAMIC  
SHELL—I FEEL PROTECTED, STRONG,  
MORE POWERFUL THAN I'VE EVER  
FELT. TO THINK OF THAT  
BEING YOU THAT YOU'RE THIS  
BUT COVERING ME...

IT'S JUST  
UNSETTLING.

REGARDLESS OF  
HOW WEIRD IT IS, WE'RE  
GOING TO HAVE TO FIGURE  
THROUGH THIS. I'M HERE  
FOR A REASON—I'VE GOT  
PROBLEMS LEFT TO SOLVE  
AND I'M GOING TO HAVE  
TO USE YOU  
TO SOLVE THEM.

FOR ME IT FEELS  
ALMOST LIKE I'M ALIVE  
AGAIN—I CAN MOVE, AFFECT  
PHYSICAL OBJECTS AGAIN—I  
CAN EVEN FEEL PAIN. IT DOESN'T  
FEEL LIKE I'M A COSTUME  
YOU'RE WEARING.  
I FEEL... REAL.

I DON'T KNOW HOW  
WE'RE EVER GOING TO  
RECONCILE THE FACT THAT  
WE CAN BOTH MOVE... NO MATTER  
HOW MUCH I TRUST YOU, I'M  
NEVER NOT GOING TO TENSE UP  
WHEN WE'RE LEAVING OFF A  
BUILDING OR FIGHTING OFF  
SOMEONE WHO'S TRYING  
TO KILL ME.

LUCKY, I'M  
ABLE TO COMPENSATE  
OUR CLUNKY MOVEMENT  
WITH THESE TENDRILS.  
I CAN FIGHT WITHOUT  
THESE WE'D PROBABLY  
BE ALMOST USELESS  
IN A FIGHT.

USELESS?  
I'M NOT  
COMPLETELY...

SIGH

WHO AM I KIDDING?  
THIS ISN'T MY WORLD.  
EVERYTHING WE'VE DONE  
THESE PAST FEW DAYS  
HAS BEEN COMPLETELY  
ALIEN TO ME. I'M JUST  
NOT PREPARED  
FOR THIS.

I WANT TO DO  
WHATEVER IT TAKES TO  
BE ABLE TO LIVE A NORMAL  
LIFE AGAIN... BUT I JUST  
DON'T KNOW HOW LONG  
I CAN KEEP THIS UP.

I DON'T  
KNOW HOW LONG  
I WILL BE ABLE  
TO KEEP UP.



WE'RE NOT EVEN,  
YOU'RE NOT FORGIVEN...  
BUT FOR THE TIME BEING,  
I'LL DO EVERYTHING WITHIN  
MY POWER TO LOOK PAST  
OUR CONSIDERABLE  
DIFFERENCES.

THAT'S  
ALL I'M  
ASKING FOR,  
DANIEL...

THEY NEED  
TO SPEAK TO  
YOU AGAIN.

RIGHT  
THIS WAY,  
PLEASE.



OH,  
SORRY.

JUST  
GIVE ME A  
MINUTE.



THERE.



I KNOW YOU  
WORKED FOR THESE  
PEOPLE, THEY'RE THE GOOD  
GUYS, BUT HUNDREDS OF FEET  
BELOW GROUND, SURROUNDED  
BY SOLDIERS ARMED TO THE  
TEETH—I STILL CAN'T HELP  
BUT FEEL LIKE I'M  
A PRISONER.

KURT  
KILGORE...  
WHAT HAVE  
YOU DRAGGED  
ME INTO?



CONTINUED IN

**HAUNT**



# IMAGE UNITED ISSUE TWO

ROBERT KIRKMAN

ROB LIEFELD

JIM VALENTINO

TODD McFARLANE

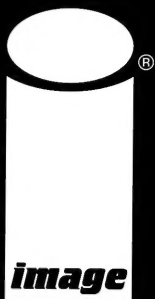
ERIK LARSEN

WHILCE PORTACIO

MARC SILVESTRI

## DECEMBER





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